

Serial No.: 09/242,210

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CLEAN VERSIONIn the Claims:

Replace claims 1 and 9 with the following:

1. (Amended) A method for evidencing postage on a mailpiece comprising the steps of:

receiving at a data center postal information relating to a mailpiece, said postal information including recipient address information for the mailpiece;

generating a digital token for the mailpiece, said digital token including encrypted information for the mailpiece based on said recipient address information;

creating a transaction record, said transaction record including the digital token and the postal information;

signing the transaction record;

storing the transaction record in a database at the data center; and

performing value added services using the transaction record.

9. (Amended) A system for dispensing postage value comprising:

a data center communicatively coupled to a remote processor via a network, a user initiating a request to the data center via the remote processor to dispense postage value to be printed by a printer coupled to the remote processor, the data center comprising:

a storage device to store data records, the data records including a user account and a meter account associated with the user;

a first cryptographic module coupled to the storage device, the first cryptographic module including a first key to decrypt a user authentication key

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included in the user account, the user authentication key being used to authenticate the user; and

a second cryptographic module coupled to the storage device, the second cryptographic module including a second key to decrypt a token key included in the meter account, the token key used to generate a digital token, the second cryptographic module further including a third key used to sign a transaction record associated with generating the digital token, the signed transaction record being stored in the storage device;

wherein the data center sends the digital token to the remote processor via the network,